

QUID NOVI

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EDITORIAL

by Cassandra Brown (Law III)
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Il y a deux semaines, Francie Gow nous a conseillé d'expérimenter des choses qui nous font peur dans la vie (« *Shivering in my Shoes* »). La même semaine, Hugues Bergeron nous a incité à faire avancer le bilinguisme dans la faculté dans son article intitulé « *Du risque d'aborder une question délicate* ». En lisant ces deux articles, j'ai réalisé que j'étais coupable des deux péchés qu'ils reprochaient. Je me considère une francophile, et je suis irrévocablement pour l'encouragement de l'utilisation de la langue française à la faculté. En même temps cependant, j'ai peur de ne pas être capable de m'exprimer d'une manière aussi claire et sophistiquée en français qu'en anglais – et cela m'empêche d'avancer le bilinguisme de temps en temps. En particulier, cela m'empêche d'écrire en français. Mais ce soir, en essayant de penser à un sujet pour mon dernier article, il n'y a rien d'autre qui me vint en tête : il faut que j'écrive cet article – en

français - et je le sais.

Le célèbre auteur francophone canadien Yann Martel a écrit, sur le fait qu'il écrit ses livres en anglais au lieu de dans sa langue maternelle, que l'anglais lui donne la distance nécessaire pour lui permettre de se concentrer sur ses idées pendant la période créative de l'écriture. Je pense souvent à lui, avec plus qu'un peu de jalouse ; si seulement je pouvais dire que le français me donnait une force au lieu d'un handicap ! Maintenant il n'y a personne pour m'aider, je suis toute seule avec cette page blanche devant moi. Plus que jamais auparavant, je ressens le français comme une obligation et non plus une passion.

Il y a trois ans, j'étais tellement captivée par l'idée d'étudier le droit en français que je n'ai pas hésité un moment entre les universités. Je rêvais déjà de ma vie idéale à Montréal :

[See **Editorial**, p 8]

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Envoyez vos commentaires ou articles avant jeudi 5pm à l'adresse: quid.law@mcgill.ca

Toute contribution doit indiquer l'auteur et son origine et n'est publiée qu'à la discréction du comité de rédaction, qui basera sa décision sur la politique de rédaction telle que décrite à l'adresse:
<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid/epolicy/html>

Contributions should preferably be submitted as a .doc attachment.

PASSING THE TORCH

by Aryana Rousseau (LAW III)

As the school year comes to an end, I find myself nostalgic. My time at the faculty has flown by and I can't believe that I'm almost done. Next semester, Natalie Haras and I will both be on exchange. Alas, the time has come to pass the Well-being torch to someone new. As a parting gesture, I offer some last thoughts and advice on a random collection of topics.

My nostalgic mood has caused me to think back on my time at the faculty. If I had to do my degree over again, I might change a few things. I would go see my professors more often and I would apply for a clerkship position. To do it over again, I would be less critical of myself and I would spend less time worrying. I would never miss coffeehouse and I would go to all the faculty events. What would you do differently if you had to do it over again?

Now, a non sequitur: The Well-being Committee encourages you to keep healthy and happy during exams. Take study breaks, go outside, see friends and remember to eat well. We did not receive enough recipe submissions to warrant a whole cookbook so we are including the recipes that we received below. Bon Appétit!

This summer, when you finally have time to read fiction again, we recommend the following books:

- Barney's Version by Mordecai Richler (Set in Montreal, this is "a beautiful book about forgetting." It will make you want to dine at the Ritz.)

- Shadows on the Rock by Willa Cather (A year in the life of a young pioneer girl in 17th century Quebec City – a perfect read to commemorate Quebec's 400th anniversary).

- House of Dreams by Pauline Gedge (Set in ancient Egypt, this is a story of an woman's rise from village midwife to being the favorite of the Pharaoh).

In closing, I want to thank all the people who have taken part in Well-being activities over the past two years. I encourage everyone to keep Well-being alive at the faculty and in your lives!

PUMPKIN SOUP by Lexi Pace (LAW I)

1 can pumpkin (larger size can, about 28 oz.)
2 cups vegetable broth (e.g. water and veggie bouillon cubes)

1 can tomatoes (smaller can, about 20 oz.)
1 Tablespoon maple syrup or honey

Sour cream to garnish

Spicing:

salt, pepper to taste

1 teaspoon onion powder and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic powder (or green mix)

curry powder to taste, anywhere from $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon to 1 teaspoon

Method:

- Purée tomatoes in a food processor, or strain through a strainer (you could also try using tomato juice rather than tomatoes)
- Mix tomatoes and pumpkin
- Add broth to desired consistency (soup should be rather thick)
- Add spices to a bit of water and then add them and the honey or syrup to the soup
- Heat until bubbling (stir continuously)
- Serve in bowls and add sour cream to garnish



QUEBECOIS PASTA SALAD by Alexandra Dodger (LAW I)

Ok, there is nothing really Quebecois about this pasta salad except for the fact that I used cheese curds. Good to make a big batch and take servings to school for those long library study sessions. Try using whole wheat pasta to make it a bit healthier!

500g cooked pasta (rotini, penne, fusilli, anything really)
150g fresh cheese curds
1 green or red pepper
1-2 tomatoes
Handful of chopped red onion or sliced black olives
1/4 cup Balsamic Vinegar
1/8 cup of Olive Oil
1 tsp oregano
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp salt
3 cloves garlic, minced

Cook pasta so it is al dente. Strain and let cool. Chop peppers, onions, tomatoes into cubes. Slice cheese curds into thin shavings. In a mixing bowl, add vegetables, pasta, cheese, spices, vinegar and oil. Mix vigorously. Savour the cheesecurd flavour!

ROASTED PEARS AND WINE

by Alexandra Dodger (LAW I)

Almost healthy dessert!

Sometimes you gotta have somethin' sweet to bust up the mid-exam blues. Good desserts feature lots of fruit, and get their flavour less from sugar and fat and more from spicy ingredients like cinnamon and nutmeg.

This roasted pear dish takes awhile in the oven, but is very simple to prepare and a great treat.

Ingredients

4-6 pears, washed, sliced into wedges
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup red wine
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup sliced almonds (walnuts, pecans may be used as substitute)
2 tablespoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
Optional: vanilla ice cream, caramel sauce

Preheat oven to 400F. Grease a baking pan and spread pears across. Mix honey, brown sugar, red wine, cinnamon and nutmeg into a glaze and spoon across pears. Bake for 20 minutes. Sprinkle almonds (or substitutes) across pears. Optional: drizzle with caramel. Place back in oven for another 10 minutes or until tender.

Serve as is, or with scoop of vanilla ice cream or yogourt.

SURPRENANT AUX POMMES DE TERRE ET CURCUMA (RECETTE AUX PROPORTIONS ALÉATOIRES)

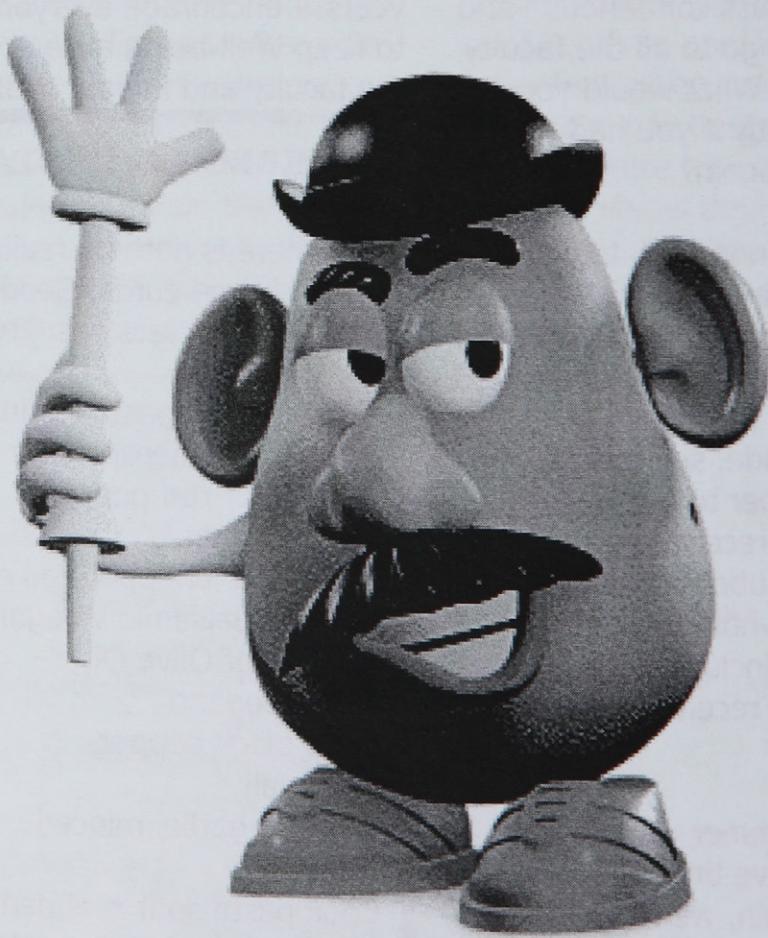
Par Laurence Bich-Carrière (LAW IV)

Ingrédients (quantités éprouvées mais révocables, au goût)

- 2 grosses pommes de terre;
- 1 gros oignon rouge;
- 1 gousse d'ail;
- 1 cuil. à table d'huile;
- 300 g d'amandes tranchées (ou autre fruit à écaille);
- 1 cuil à table de curcuma;
- 250 g de roquette (ou de bébés épinards);
- 300 mL de crème épaisse (de la 15%, ça va faire aussi).

Préparation

1. Couper les pommes de terre en rondelles (ils n'est pas nécessaire de les peler).
2. Les faire cuire dans de l'eau salée jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient tendres.
3. Verser l'huile dans une poêle et y faire revenir l'oignon émincé et l'ail pendant 3-4 minutes.
4. Ajouter les pommes de terre, le curcuma et les amandes. Brasser pendant 2-3 minutes.
5. Incorporer la roquette.
6. Mettre le tout dans un plat allant au four, recouvrir de crème et laisser cuire à 375°F pendant 20 minutes.



THE SUPREME COURT RULES SUPREME OVER MCGILL (INTRAMURAL 'B') BASKETBALL

by Nick Turp (LAW I)

History was made on Sunday, April 6th, 2008: for the first time ever, a McGill intramural team composed exclusively of first year law students won the basketball championship.

Following a 5-1 season, the Court breezed through the early playoff rounds, only to face the first-place team in the semi-finals. This team was none other than the "Franchise Players", featuring several second-year law students. In an incredibly close game, the Court finally pulled off a 4 point win. Unstoppable team and league MVP Ben Sormonte dominated the second half of the game with numerous three-point shots and steals. It was a matchup for the ages, one that will forever be remembered at the law faculty.

In the final game, the Court faced the aptly-named "Blue Ballers". Despite their groin-area injuries, the Ballers came out strong, showing no signs of the previous night's frustration. Yet the Court held strong, with stellar defence and excellent ball control. League height champion Nick Turp fouled out early, due to horrendous refereeing and obviously no other reason. Forwards Tim Bottomer and Captain Alex Shee also faced foul trouble. Luckily, superstars Sormonte and Ryan Elger

teamed up to destroy the Ballers with numerous clutch shots. Guards Andrew Cleland, Timour Breslavski, Ishan Singh, Chris Rompre and Stevi ("Trans-Sys-Stevia") Papadopoulos contributed with strong defense and well-orchestrated plays. In the end, the Court were too much for the Blue Ballers, who had to settle for hugs (and maybe kisses) while the Court scored the ultimate victory.

It was a historic win, a win that was duly compensated by complementary McGill intramural champion beer mugs, which will probably be filled no earlier than April 29th, at 3 p.m. In true McGill law fashion, the Supreme Court was the most gender and culturally diverse team in the league. Shout-outs also go to Alex Lefebvre and Leah Kucher who helped out but were not allowed to participate in the playoffs. A congratulatory call from the Dean is expected sooner than later.

2007-2008 Supreme Court Awards:

MVP and loudest ref annoyer: Ben Sormonte

All-around star: Ryan Elger

Most improved player and best swingman: Chris Rompre

Strongest post player and one-arm-one-leg shooter: Tim Bottomer

Loudest screamer and best team player: Alex Shee

Fastest player: Timour Breslavski

Secret weapon: Ishan Singh

Unsung Hero: Andrew Cleland

Strongest hustle: Stevi Papadopoulos

Tallest (and oldest) player: Nick Turp

Here's to the Supreme Court, McGill Intramural "B" basketball CHAMPIONS!!!! With at least two more years in law, it might just be a DYNASTY in the making....



PARTICIPATING IN THE KAWASKIMHON MOOT

by Anna Mazur & Akino Kowashi (LAW III)

*Elder gives an opening prayer
Smoke rises from burned ashes
Our ancestors surround the circle
Hope for children, we put in the center
Handing down the round stone,
We confirm that we live together*

We would like to share with you the very special experience that we had two weekends ago at the Kawaskimhon Moot, the so-called Aboriginal Law Moot, held this year at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

About Kawaskimhon Moot

Many of you might associate certain things with the word "Moot." The Kawaskimhon Moot, however, is quite different from the other moots law students participate in. This moot does not involve simulating common law or civil law court procedures in which law students act as legal council representing opposing parties. Rather, the Kawaskimhon Moot is a simulation of a negotiation-based dispute resolution that takes place outside court procedures and places emphasis on cooperation and consensus building. Unlike most of the "Moots," the

fact pattern of the Kawaskimhon Moot involves multiple parties with cross-cutting interests. This year the fact pattern dealt not with a dispute between the Crown and First Nations groups as has been the rule

pattern was who would be in control of a certain section of land, rich in natural resources, being claimed by multiple parties.

Each team was assigned to represent one of 8 or so parties to the dispute. The McGill team this year represented the Women's Cooperative, an independent group consisting of women from many of the First Nations embroiled in

between Aboriginal communities which are not understood or regulated by Canadian law. Through these kinship ties, communities can recognize that the long-term health of Aboriginal people requires coming together to protect traditional knowledge, custom and the land upon which traditions are carried out and that this coming together is perhaps best accomplished outside the court system according to indigenous legal traditions.



for this Moot in previous years, but dealt with the attempt to resolve competing interests between First Nations outside the Canadian legal system, using indigenous legal traditions.

The fact pattern dealt with in this year's Kawaskimhon Moot was based on a current real life situation of a complex boundary dispute between and among Aboriginal peoples in northern British Columbia. The main question posed in the fact

the dispute. Our main agenda was to protect traditional berry picking and medicinal harvesting areas within the disputed territory from imminent oil and gas development. One fundamental tactic for working towards the protection of the land was to remind the various parties to the dispute that although Canadian law has differentiated Aboriginal people into various First Nations through the Indian Act, extensive kinship ties have and continue to exist

Preparation Before Going to the Moot

Firstly, we were asked to submit a legal opinion letter based on Canadian law advising our client of the likely outcome of the dispute over the territory if and when the groups resort to the Canadian court system. This exercise allowed us to review the current status of Canadian law in relation to the dispute between the First Nations groups claiming rights over the land and rec-

ognize the limitations that resorting to the court system would have for coming to an agreement between Aboriginal groups. Our opinion letter, for example, informed our client, the Women's Cooperative, that they are unlikely to have standing before the court due to the fact that Aboriginal rights are held communally by federally recognized First Nations, not individuals or other conglomerations of Aboriginal people. We also highlighted that Canadian law and the courts have tended to recognize male activities like hunting and fishing, but have tended largely to ignore women's traditional activities which have thus gone largely unprotected in Canadian law relating to Aboriginal people.

After submitting the legal opinion letter, we were also asked to prepare a negotiation proposal, drawing on our party's own indigenous legal traditions which was to structure the way we would negotiate for our client during the dispute resolution exercise. In researching the legal traditions of the Aboriginal groups in northern B.C., we consulted with various non-legal documents such as anthropologists' transcripts of elders' stories and early historians' accounts of indigenous customary law. With this negotiation proposal in hand, we participated in the Moot negotiation.

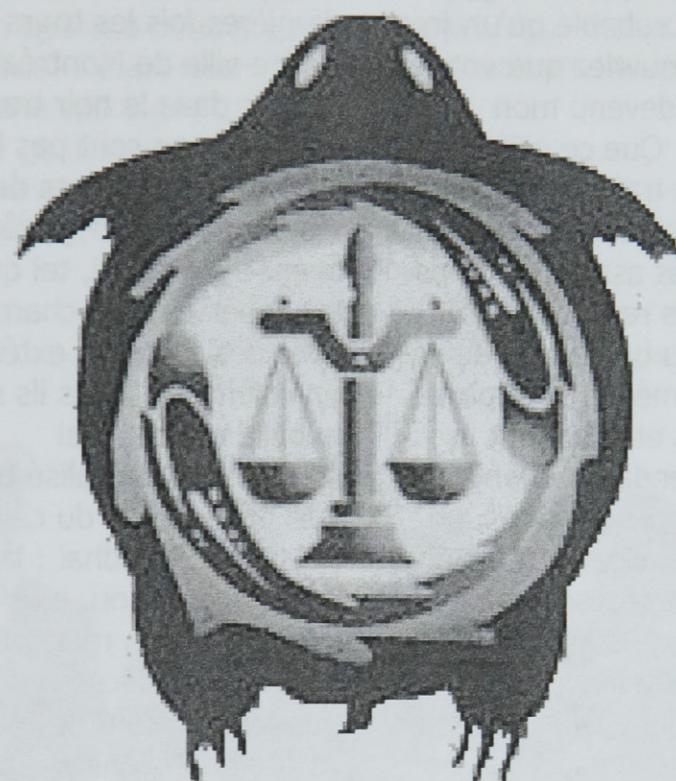
The Negotiation

The negotiation exercise lasted one and a half days. It began with a talking circle format in which a stone was handed from one participant to another around the circle, allowing the holder of

the stone to speak to the group uninterrupted. We were led in the endeavor by an elder and two facilitators who aided in keeping the negotiation focused and grounded in indigenous traditions. Our elder and two facilitators at times encouraged us, reassured us, reminded us of what we were

of being honest.

In the afternoon of the first day the parties split into different groups to for more intimate negotiations. In these smaller groups the dynamics completely changed. Oppositional stances and attitudes arose and the parties had diffi-



ignoring, and pushed us further to unpack our assumptions. They were the ones who carved out the meat and bones of the negotiation and who made us truly personalize the position that each of us was representing. To us, the elder and the facilitators represented wisdom. This wisdom is not merely about having vast stores of knowledge nor having objective and critical perspectives, but about knowing what's needed and when to intervene, having caring eyes for each individual as well as the whole circle, being able to listen to others, being able to arouse one's emotion by simple anecdote, and not being afraid

culty with the idea of compromising their positions.

The negotiation exercise was not a simple endeavor, principally because so many emotions are involved in the dispute. Through listening to other parties we came to recognize some of the many issues entangled in the present dispute: Indian Act status, identity, hierarchy among First Nations, band politics, dichotomy of economic development and tradition ..., all of which cannot be divorced from colonialism and the Indian Act.

After a whole day of severe opposition, in the final hour of our negotiation, all the

parties agreed to agree. We did not manage, in the short time-frame of the moot to agree upon a specific deal, but it was significant that the parties who had been strongly opposed to each other, were able to come to a consensus on common interests and an agreement to bring parties together under a management plan for the overlap area. The outcome of this year's Moot reflects the Kawaskimhon Moot's central theme of building long-term relationships in place of one-time solutions to problems.

It was truly a privilege for us to be able to participate in the Kawaskimhon Moot this year. We thank all the Faculty members and our coaches for sending and supporting us.

In the past years, McGill has been sending a team to the Kawaskimhon Moot only once every two years. It has been said that this is, for one thing, because there are not many students interested in this Moot. We believe this is not so. We believe the problem is not a lack of interest in Aboriginal legal issues, but perhaps a lack of publicity about the Kawaskimhon Moot itself. Although the Kawaskimhon Moot does not involve winning, we can assure you that it will be a truly worthwhile life and learning experience. We encourage as many students as possible to apply for the Kawaskimhon Moot as their top choice. Preference will be given to Aboriginal students. The moot run-offs will be held on April 7, 8 and 9th.

[Editorial, continued]

je prendrais un croissant et un café chaque matin, je développerais un cercle d'amis francophones, et je vivrais ma vie entourée par, et inspirée de, la musique française, le cinéma français, la littérature française et surtout la langue française.

Lorsque je suis arrivée, j'ai trouvé cette vie fascinante, étrangère et passionnante dont je rêvais depuis longtemps. J'ai rapidement abandonné tous mes cours anglais au profit des cours français (sauf un). J'ai parlé en français avec enthousiasme dans n'importe quel magasin, restaurant ou institution. Les gentils francophones de notre faculté (et dans la communauté) m'encourageaient sans cesse, ce qui m'a inspiré d'essayer encore plus fort de devenir bilingue. Mais petit à petit – je ne pouvais rien faire pour l'empêcher – le romanesque est devenu le quotidien. Mes lectures, arrêt après arrêt de la Cour Supérieure du Québec - avec aucune traduction anglaise disponible (surtout en droit des biens; j'avoue que j'ai souvent triché en droit constitutionnel et les arrêts anglais de la Cour Suprême) - me rendaient tellement fatiguée qu'à la fin de la journée souvent je ne pouvais même pas me forcer à choisir « français » sur le guichet RBC pour retirer 20\$. Parfois, j'étais désespérément frustrée. Qu'est-ce que tu fais lorsque tu trouves un jour que la chose qui t'avait passionnée comme aucune autre chose est maintenant sans splendeur, et ne t'ex-

cites plus comme elle l'a fait auparavant?

Je pense que c'est une question pertinente pour toute personne qui n'a jamais été motivée par une passion. Pour un grand nombre d'entre nous, le droit a été l'une de ces passions. J'espère qu'il l'est encore pour vous. Mais sans vouloir être prétentueuse, j'ose suggérer qu'il est probable qu'un jour vous découvriez que votre droit est devenu mon français. Que ce soit parce que vous travaillez fort sans voir des résultats, que vous n'avez pas assez de temps pour vous reposer à l'extérieur du bureau ou de l'école, ou même juste parce que vous étudiez tout le temps pendant de longues et fatigantes périodes, un jour vous allez vous lever et vous allez réaliser que l'étincelle qui vous avez motivé une fois est inexplicablement absent. Votre passion vous ennuie; elle s'est dissipée.

Alors qu'est-ce qui vient après la passion ? Est-ce que c'est le temps d'abandonner l'espoir? Le temps de chercher ailleurs, pour trouver des nouvelles passions dans d'autres domaines de votre vie, comme la famille ou les passe-temps? Ou est-ce que vous devriez permettre à votre passion de devenir simplement un moyen qui justifie une fin, comme le bien-être d'autres personnes, le prestige ou encore le pouvoir ? Après tout, le droit est juste le droit, comme le français est juste le français. Il y a tout un monde qui existe autour de nous.

Personnellement, je ne

pense pas que c'est aussi facile que ça de délaisser une passion. Ce n'est pas seulement par obligation que je continue de prendre des cours en français, de parler en français à coffee house, d'acheter des livres en français pour l'avenir (lorsque, je me dis, j'aurais le temps de les lire). Je viens de rentrer chez moi ce soir, et en traversant le campus j'ai vu pour une des dernières fois les tours du centre-ville de Montréal illuminées dans le noir tranquille. Ils ne sont pas les symboles charmants de la vie française dont je rêvais avant de venir ici, tel que les appartements charmants avec des escaliers extérieurs en colimaçon, mais ils sont la belle réalité. J'ai soudainement réalisé que je suis une victime du célèbre procès de Stendhal : la cristallisation (ou, plus spécifiquement, la recristallisation). J'ai redécouvert la passion au cœur de ma réalité quotidienne. La langue française ne se manifeste plus dans ma tête comme une collection de stéréotypes romanesques. Le français est ce qui vient naturellement de ma bouche à chaque fois que je parle au téléphone pour faire une réservation au restaurant (ou même une commande de St-Hubert !) ; c'est ce que je lis dans les babillards au Provigo ; c'est ce que j'entends dans le métro. Une petite partie de moi est triste d'avoir perdu l'ancienne image sentimentale que j'avais, c'est vrai, et triste de ne plus avoir le même type de passion intense que j'avais il était une fois. Mais maintenant je suis certaine : ce qui vient après la passion, après tout le travail que vous faites

pour la développer et l'améliorer, c'est l'amour, un phénomène plus profond et plus intense que je n'aurais jamais pu rêver. Je ne suis pas consciente de ce fait au jour le jour, mais le français fait maintenant réellement partie de moi.

J'espère que vous resterez toujours inspirés et motivés par votre passion, et que vous n'aurez jamais l'occasion de la remettre en cause comme moi. Mais si un jour ça devait vous arriver, j'espère seulement que vous persévererez assez longtemps pour vous apercevoir que votre passion ne s'est pas, en fait, dissipée mais qu'elle fait dorénavant partie intégrante de vous, de telle sorte que savoir quand et comment cela a commencé vous importera peu et qu'il vous sera impossible d'imaginer exister en son absence. Et que cela vous arrive suite au succès d'un projet professionnel, tel que l'acceptation de vos suggestions pour la réforme d'une loi, suite à votre première plaidoirie devant la Cour, ou tout simplement après avoir écrit un article que vous n'auriez jamais pensé être capable d'écrire, vous saurez à ce moment que c'était ce qui devait arriver. Vous et votre passion sont réunies pour toujours, et vous n'avez pas besoin de plus de mots pour l'exprimer que ceux qu'avaient utilisés Michel de Montaigne au regard de son amitié inévitable pour La Boétie, fruit de la force du destin : « parce que c'était toi, parce que c'était moi ».

MY GUIDE TO RECRUITMENT

by Aryana Rousseau (LAW III)

Recruitment is a popular topic around the faculty and I'm writing this article to offer a positive review of the process. Typically, recruitment gets a bad reputation. I'm sure you've heard that recruitment takes way too much time and is very tiring; we all know the horror stories about mean lawyers and stress interviews that leave applicants in tears. What people don't say is that recruitment can actually be fun!

Before I started the course-aux-stages, I was a nervous wreck: terrified and full of self-doubt. I had been dreading those three weeks since first year. But once the process got going, I enjoyed myself. I actually liked putting my power-suit costume on every morning and spending the day exploring fancy office towers around the city. In interviews, all you have to do is talk about how amazing you are – and who doesn't like that? Plus you find free food and drink all over the place. I only regret that I didn't fill my pockets with those little

Stikeman Elliott chocolates that they have in their reception area.

But seriously: recruitment has its ups and downs for everyone. I think that everyone will enjoy it better if they go into it expecting to have a good time. To help other students on their

suggest buying in January. Stores are trying to clear out their stock at that time and there are major post-Christmas discounts.

2. What makes you successful in law school doesn't necessarily make you successful at work. To prepare for interviews, think about the business of law: how to get clients, how to stay competitive in the legal market, etc. You will likely get questions about this topic.

3. Recruitment is a very sweaty process, so keep

4. You will meet a lot of people and you should try to remember who they are. You can ask who your interviewers are and familiarize yourself with their backgrounds from the law firm's website. Also, you can ask the interviewers for their business cards. It is also polite to recognize and remember people from school. During recruitment, I met a lot of people with whom I have classes who had no idea that we went to school together.

5. For the semester in which you will be recruiting, you may want to arrange your class schedule so that you'll miss as little class as possible. Also, you might want to take "easier" classes because you won't be able to devote the regular amount of time to studying.

5. Keep a journal. By the end of the process, you will have gone to so many events that you may not even remember your first interview. When it comes to deciding which firm you want, you will appreciate your notes.

6. Believe that you are an excellent candidate and that you will get a job. Confidence is a big factor. In the end, you may or may not get a job. If you don't get an offer, try not to let it ruin your self-confidence.



recruitment journeys, I have made a list my favourite recruitment tips:

1. Look your best. You will feel more confident if you look good. A suit is pretty much mandatory for all recruitment events, even the cocktails and dinners. To get the best price on a suit, I

your deodorant handy. If your hands get clammy when you are nervous (like me), wash them often with harsh soap to dry them out. Some people suggest keeping a tea bag in your pocket and holding it to dry out your hands. But this can make your pocket and hands dirty.

HEMINGWAY, ON A BAD DAY

by Stefan Szpajda (LAW I)

We never stopped moving, the four of us. Each day, each step, each thought directed toward movement. To cease moving would have been to abandon movement, and that we could not do. For we never stopped moving. Even when our shoes wore down (and we were fortunate to have shoes to wear down!) we placed one foot in front of the other. The war raged on, but we didn't mind. We had tobacco in our pipes.

We never stopped smoking tobacco, the three of us. Oscar, the fourth, did not partake. He claimed it made him wheezy. He didn't want to keep us up at night, wheezing. He knew that we would kill him. We thought of killing him anyway.

"Oscar." Stated Anton, definitively.

"What is it, Spaniard?" Oscar called everyone Spaniard.

"I want you to polish my boot." He had no boot to polish. But he repeated his demand regardless.

"I told you I wouldn't polish your boots if you had a pair."

That's how we spent our days, the four of us. Oscar in particular was always

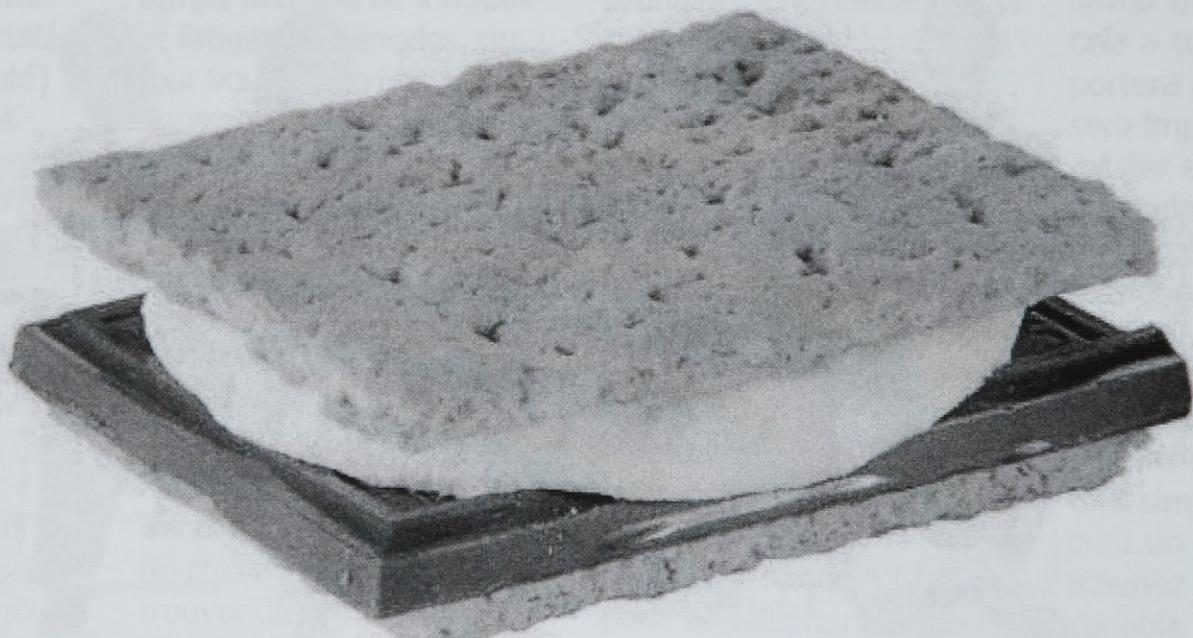
tense, sensing betrayal. But we couldn't kill him, not yet. The constant rat-tat-tat reminded us of our mortality, and very large clocks.

Gunfights in the distance never bothered us at all. They afforded ample opportunity for pillaging, which we liked very well. In that part of the country they had the softest blankets, you could coddle your infant in them without so much as a spoonful of olive oil, which

think about it, was a happy coincidence.

"Carlos. A smoke."

Oscar quickened his pace. He didn't want to wheeze again. I gave Anton his wont. He never said thank you, or please. He didn't say much. But when he spoke, we listened. He had been a school teacher once and kept his ruler with him always. He didn't need to rap our knuckles for us to know



we never went without. Sometimes we'd drink the olive oil until we were sick and then slide to the ground, exhausted and crying. Other times we'd speak of Egypt as though it was our country. It was Ibrahim's country, but he preferred to stay quiet. Also, he was mute. Which, if you

what it felt like. We'd all been boys, a long time ago.

"When you ponder death, is it warm or is it cold?"

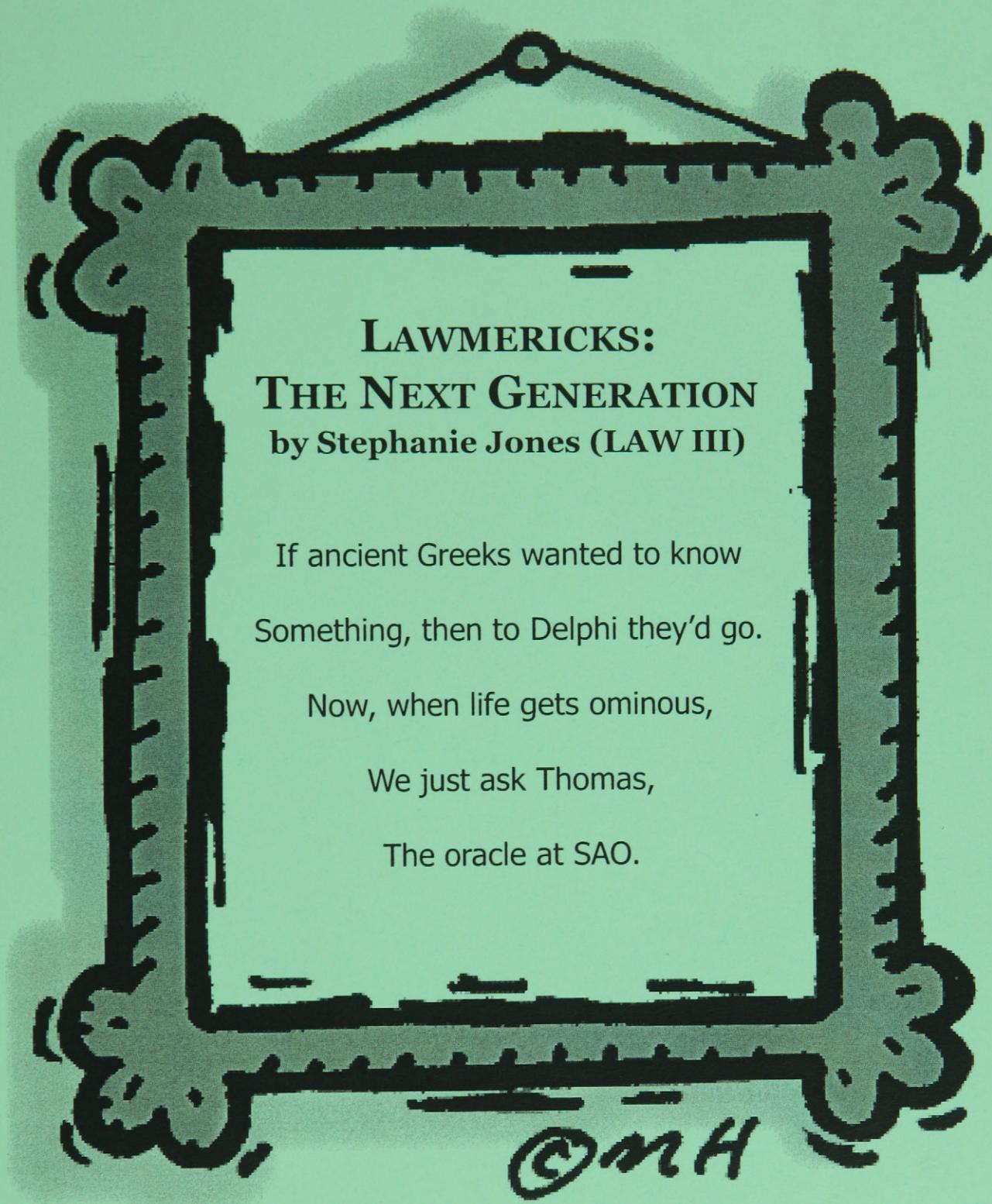
Oscar was trying to make conversation. He always tried too hard. We ignored him, and he was stung. But how else would he learn?

He was still a boy. We were all boys, once. Before the war. In Oscar's case, he was still a boy. But he wouldn't be for long, we all knew. His birthday came the following week. We gifted him fresh linens but he soon soiled them. He was a tense boy, always trying too hard. When the war ended we weren't sure what to think. What would peace bring? Where had the profiteers gone? And most importantly, were they paying dividends?

Sometimes I reflect on the nights in the hills, falling asleep to the sounds of men dying. I miss those muffled cries now, the smell of our campfire logs, the taste of softly melting smores. Anton, for all his faults, made the best smores. He never burned the marshmallows. He was a patient man, waiting almost pathologically for the perfect golden brown exterior. Somehow he'd seal the contours and the chocolate never spilled out. Oscar, of course, never dared ask to try

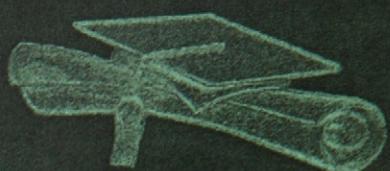
one. We all knew what he was thinking as he watched us, licking our fingers. What does he reminisce about, I wonder?

Nothing, I finally decide. We killed him years ago, before we left the hills for the last time. Somehow, I'd forgotten.





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